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THE NORTH CHINA
UNION LANGUAGE
SCHOOL

PEKING
CHINA

AMERICAN HEADQUARTERS
299 Broadway, New York



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Some Members of the Teaching Staff of the North China Union Language School

AWAKENED China, with vast material resources and a producing population unparalleled in numbers, is building on her ancient foundations a new national life that will place her in the forefront of the world's great powers.

Conscious of her obligation and her possibilities, China is seeking a better understanding at the hands of those races with whose destinies hers must henceforth be inseparably linked.

Sympathy with the ideals and purposes that are stirring this new life, and participation in the work of their fulfillment are obligations common to all nations. But neither can be discharged without understanding of the conditions of China's life as it exists today and has existed through countless generations.

The one great essential to this understanding is knowledge of China's language.

Not until the Occidentals learn the tongue of China can they understand adequately that country's life and aspirations or participate intelligently and effectively in its progress.

THE NORTH CHINA UNION LANGUAGE SCHOOL

THE first foreign mastery of China's tongue was by the early mission workers. The task was accomplished only with infinite labor and perseverance.

The demand of missions, of diplomacy and of trade for those capable of serving as interpreters and translators grew enormously with the influx of foreigners drawn by China's amazing development. The colleges of the Occident could not meet the need. China's scholastic resources were equally impotent.

Out of this emergency grew the North China Union Language School, in Peking: an institution that for a decade has taught missionaries, business and professional representatives, diplomats and scholars how to master the Chinese language in the most efficient and expeditious way. Its service has come to be recognized as a great moving force in the life of this new China and a potent instrument for removing the barrier which the Occidental's ignorance of the Chinese tongue has always imposed.

FATHERED BY EIGHT GREAT MISSIONS

The School's operation is under the guidance of eight of the world's great missions—the American Board, American Methodist, American Presbyterian, Church of England, London Missionary Society, China Medical Board, Y. M. C. A., and Y. W. C. A. Likewise it bears the indorsement and active support of the American and British Legations, the British Chamber of Commerce and of the American Association of North China. Its property is held in the name of the American Presbyterian Board.

Under such auspices and direction its responsibility and standing have been established from the outset. But such sponsorship was necessarily earned and has been consistently merited, because of the excellence and efficiency of the methods of instruction developed.

IN CHINA'S CAPITAL

Located in Peking, the capital of the country, the School enjoys the advantages of the educational, cultural and political center of the nation. The Pekingese, or northern Mandarin, dialect, which is the one taught, carries with it the prestige of the capital. The presence in Peking of some two hundred and fifty missionaries engaged in all forms of missionary work, of the large number of foreign business and diplomatic representatives, and of 800,000 Chinese makes this the most effective and practical training center.

At the request of the sponsoring boards and missions the Y. M. C. A. placed W. B. Pettus, one of its secretaries, in charge of the school. A graduate of Columbia University, Mr. Pettus' wide experience in China, his standing as a specialist in language pedagogy, as well as his devotion and loyalty to the great object of the institution, made him singularly fitted for this work. The successful methods of teaching the Chinese language perfected under his guidance and the growing demand for a wider extension of the work are convincing proofs of the wisdom of that choice.

NEW TEACHING METHODS

The old methods of language study, which were dependent on rather obsolete text books and even less dependable native teachers, have been revolutionized by the North China Union Language School under Mr. Pettus' direction. The institute has established the fact, beyond all cavil, that the Chinese language—long thought well nigh unteachable—can be mastered by the foreigner.

Aside from the Principal, who has long specialized in language study methods and in phonetics, the instructors are largely Chinese, the number on the faculty now being 120. These are supplemented by a score of American and British volunteer teachers and lecturers. As they are drawn from the city of Peking, the cultural center of the country, they comprise specialists in all phases of Chinese life as well as in the native tongue. It is, however, on the training of its corps of Chinese teachers that the success of the institution and its method so largely depends. The present staff was chosen from more than 600 applicants, and the selections were made only after a comprehensive series of vocational and psychological tests.

DIRECT METHOD EMPLOYED

The direct method of teaching is employed. The language of the class room is Chinese. No English is spoken. All new work is given out orally by a Chinese head teacher to the entire class. The meaning is conveyed by pictures, charts and pantomime. The class then dissolves into small groups under separate teachers, where the lesson of the day is continued. Later, each student retires to one of many tiny studies, or cubicles, with an individual teacher, and there the drilling is carried on until the perplexities are ironed out and new habits of expression are formed. Frequent and exhaustive reviews complete the process.

The curriculum of this school is by no means confined to the study of the Chinese language. There is seminar work covering such subjects as Chinese ancient and mediaeval history, Chinese sociology, the country's governmental system, its religions, its current history, its economics and its foreign relations—the instruction coming from



GROUP OF CHINESE TEACHERS OF THE

experts distinguished in many fields of Chinese and foreign life. So is gained a perspective of China's life and thought.

The School's library, which is coming to be one of the finest in North China, is an additional source of invaluable aid to the missionary, the student, the diplomat and the merchant, and should be enlarged and extended.

857 STUDENTS IN FIVE YEARS

Within the last five years 857 students have attended the School, of whom 674 were Americans, 129 British and 54 divided among other nationalities, 21 countries being represented. The total was



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evenly divided between men and women. Within this same brief period the attendance grew from 103 to 319.

The North China Union Language School is achieving something of even a larger significance in a practical and idealistic way.

In the first place: it is making foreign trade, for it is aiding the foreign business man to break the pernicious grip of comprador, or middleman, through whom all foreign business had to be done in the past, and who proved so large a factor in retarding foreign trade in China. It is helping the outside merchant to deal directly with the man with whom he has come to do business, and thus to learn better of his needs and his preferences.

COSTLY "TURN-OVER" SAVED

Again: by thus concentrating in Peking training in the language, in missionary work and in Chinese life and customs, much of the time of senior missionaries and seniors in the diplomatic and business world, which necessarily had to be devoted to new-comers on their staffs, is saved to the organizations they serve, and a large percentage of costly "turn-over" is avoided. Through the method employed by the School the experience and knowledge of the older workers in the field of missions and business are passed on to the new men and women who are needed in ever increasing numbers to do the work in this rapidly growing field. Such training and such equipment are most effective when carried on in the environment in which they are to be exercised.

TRAINING IN CHINA FOR THOSE WHO ARE TO WORK IN CHINA IS THE MOST EFFICIENT.

This fact the great business enterprises of the world have long since discovered. To these the North China Union Language School in Peking is a resource of incalculable worth.

CLEARING A PATHWAY TO THE ORIENT

In a broader aspect the School is doing a momentous work in bridging the chasm which ignorance of China's language, customs and racial characteristics has cut in the Occident's path to this gateway of the Orient.

EVERY AGENCY OF ENLIGHTENMENT AND PROGRESS BEARS A RIGHTFUL SHARE OF THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUCH A WORK AS THIS SCHOOL IS DOING.

EVERY BRANCH OF TRADE AND COMMERCE THAT SEEKS A LEGITIMATE FOOTING IN THIS VIRGIN FIELD OF OPPORTUNITY IS CONCERNED IN THE SUPPORT AND EXPANSION OF SUCH AN ASSET.

From its inception the School has been conducted with the utmost regard for economy, as well as efficiency. Funds have always been limited. But the growth in attendance and in the imperative demand for enlarged work, as well as present conditions of housing, compel appeal for a larger measure of financial support.

There are more than 300 students in attendance. Because of lack of room many are crowded in the homes of missionaries, thus interfering seriously with their work.

Such dormitories and school buildings as are available are limited and in extremely poor condition.

In addition to the heavy item of rent there is added the constant burden of repairs.

Furthermore, ancient brick flooring, obsolete heating apparatus and poor sanitary arrangements have long proved detrimental to health, and often dangerous to life.

TO LOSE PRESENT HOME

The School faces the loss of even these poor and inadequate quarters, for the buildings are to be razed next year and the land used for business purposes.

A suitable site for the new School has been set aside by the Chinese government east of the Methodist Mission in the Tartar City.

Funds for buildings and equipment will be necessary.

Some sort of substantial endowment must be provided to insure a staff of instructors, Chinese and foreign, to meet the demands of a constantly growing student body.

Because of the limited faculty it has been impossible to meet fully the rapidly increasing requirements of those who desire to study in absentia.

MINIMUM NEEDS

The School's minimum needs, stated in American gold dollars, are set as these:

Buildings	\$250,000	
Land	50,000	
Furniture and equipment	20,000	
Books for Library	25,000	
Endowment fund to insure salaries of foreign teaching staff	200,000	
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Total		\$545,000

Against this total of needs stand:

Land, donated by the Chinese Government.	\$50,000	
Furniture and books valued at	15,000	
Pledges	20,000	
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Total	\$ 85,000	

The estimate is the result of carefully considered surveys. Completion of the fund will place the institution on a sound working basis and insure a larger measure of service and usefulness.

THE FUNDS NECESSARY TO MEET THE PRESENT EMERGENCY MUST COME FROM THOSE AGENCIES WHICH HAVE SO LOYALLY SUPPORTED THE INSTITUTION IN ITS SMALLER UNDERTAKINGS, AND FROM THE ELEMENTS OF WORLD TRADE WHICH HAVE ENJOYED IN GREATEST MEASURE THE BENEFITS OF ITS SERVICE, AND FROM ALL THOSE WHO RECOGNIZE IN ITS WORK AN ETHICAL INFLUENCE OF PROVEN WORTH AND AN AGENCY OF ENDURING HUMAN GOOD.

To this world-wide constituency this appeal is made.

THE NORTH CHINA UNION LANGUAGE SCHOOL,
Peking, China.

American Headquarters,
299 Broadway, New York.

APPRECIATIONS

AFTER some years of actual experience and successful accomplishment, your school stands today the best one in Asia, I think that I am competent to say. * * * * The fact that so many prominent men in all walks of life are genuinely interested in the work of the School after having visited it and having known the results of the work through watching its graduates, is a proof that the institution is worthy of all confidence—Professor Harlan P. Beach, Yale University Day Missions Library.

There is no doubt that the school has been a most valuable contribution, not only to the missions but to all who are interested in training personnel for work in China—Roger S. Greene, The Rockefeller Foundation, China Medical Board, Peking, China.

The School exercises a very helpful function in bringing about a mutual understanding and a thorough friendship between the foreign communities and the Chinese. I consider it very important that an institution of such value should be given a permanent home—Dr. Paul S. Reinsch, former American Minister to China.

The rapid growth of the School and its ever increasing usefulness to the government, missionary and commercial circles should be a matter of great gratification to you. About thirty persons who have been connected with this Legation as officers, military attaches and clerks have taken courses in the school, and the results obtained have been most satisfactory—Clarence J. Spiker, Acting Chinese Secretary of United States Legation, Peking, China.

It is with great pleasure that I write this note commending the work of the Union Language School, Peking. Our missionaries have found it most useful, and I do not know how our Mission would get on without it now—The Right Reverend William C. White, Bishop, Canadian Church Mission, Diocese of Honan, China.

The coming of the Language School has effected a great change. I am inclined to lay most emphasis (rightly or wrongly) on the fact that the School now supplies intelligent, trained Chinese teachers who know their job, and whose interest it is to see that their pupils do well at the School. * * * * The needs of the School are obvious. There *must be* buildings to accommodate it: it is absurd that such an institution should be scattered about in Chinese alleys and inns! and there *ought to be at least* two more experienced men or women on the staff besides the present Director—The Right Reverend Frank L. Norris, Bishop, Church of England Mission, Peking, China.

At a meeting of the Directors of the London Missionary Society, held at the end of April, I took occasion to refer to the fine service which you had rendered to the missionary cause, especially in North China, in connection with the Union Language School. We have had reports from our students who have been there and from others as to the excellence of the instruction given at the School under your leadership. I was desired by the Directors to express to you their very warm appreciation of the very valuable help which has been given at the School to the L. M. S. students—
F. H. Hawkins, Secretary London Missionary Society.

It seems to me that too much cannot be said in commendation of the work done. My own feeling has come from my sense of indebtedness. * * * * The Language School and the associations into which it brought us made China *home* for us in a very short time. We were spared many of the “hardships” with which we had been threatened simply because of our opportunity to be introduced to China thru the Language School, and I could wish nothing more profitable and interesting for the subsequent newcomers than that they should alike share the privileges that the school affords—The Rev. E. McNeill Poteat, Jr., The Southern Baptist Mission, Kaifengfu, Honan, China.

I am interested, of course, for we have had in the School all of the young women we have been sending to the field since the organization of the School and I hear only praise of the work you are doing. Many of our new missionaries on the field write of their enjoyment and delight in the study of the language, calling it a “fascinating game”—Orpha C. Avann, official correspondent for North China Woman’s Foreign Missionary Society, the Methodist Episcopal Church.

I wish to bear witness to the great debt which we owe to the Peking Language School for the excellent start in the Chinese language which it has given to those new recruits whom we have sent to Peking for their first year. The testimony of those who have been to this school and of those who have examined the new recruits who have begun the Chinese language there is unanimous as to the great value of this school. It provides not only an excellent course of study in the Chinese language, but also lectures of great value as an introduction to the life of China as seen in Peking which is bound to affect favorably one’s general understanding of conditions in China—The Right Reverend Logan H. Roots, Bishop, American Church Mission, Hankow, China.

